'Coincidences' allowed Ruby to kill Oswald

Times Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — An internal investigation by the Dallas Police Department found that Jack Ruby was able to get into police headquarters to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald because of "a series of unfortunate coincidences," a memo in FBI files says.

"We are convinced that our investigation has established to a reasonable certainty that Jack Leon Ruby entered the basement from the Main Street ramp and that no collusion existed between him an any member of the press; that his entrance into the basement at this particular time was the result of a series of unfortunate coincidences which caused a momentary breakdown in the security measures adopted," the report to J.E. Curry, police chief at the time, concludes.

The report says Ruby told the detective who interviewed him that he didn't have a way planned to enter the building, but that he couldn't have timed his arrival "so perfect." He apparently slipped into the building when a policeman stepped outside to stop traffic for a moment, the report explained.

"Ruby was in the basement for a maximum of two minutes, with a strong possibility that it was only five to 10 seconds prior to the shooting..." the memo says.

The FBI, meanwhile, was investigating the possibility of "police involvement" in the shooting on its own.

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Oswald is shot by Jack Ruby during his transfer to county jail

The documents show that scores of Dallas policeman were interviewed about their movements at police headquarters the morning Oswald was shot.

Each was questioned closely about any prior association with Ruby and all but a few claimed they had not known him.

News reporters who were present in the police headquarters basement at the time of the shooting were also carefully questioned about what they were doing that morning.

The Warren Commission concluded that Ruby entered the basement unaided.